

REMARKS

The present application was filed on September 12, 2003 with claims 1-27. Claims 25 and 26 have been withdrawn from consideration as a result of a restriction requirement, and are being canceled herein, without prejudice.

The specification is being amended herein. Specifically, the phrase "e.g., from about ten nanometers to about 500 nanometers" has been added on page 7, line 27, of the specification. Support for the amendment to the specification may be found, for example, in claim 18. Claim 18 is being amended herein to add the phrase "a thickness of" which was inadvertently omitted from the claim as filed. Support for the amendment to claim 18 may be found, for example, beginning on page 7, line 25, of the specification. New claim 28 is being added. Support for new claim 28 may be found, for example, beginning on page 9, line 21, of the specification.

None of the above amendments are being made for the purpose of patentability, but merely to clarify the subject matter to which Applicants are entitled. No new matter is being introduced by these amendments.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 9, 13, 14, 16, 19 and 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,774,032 issued to Park (hereinafter "Park"). The Examiner further rejected claims 15 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Park. The Examiner also rejected claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Park in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,245,640 issued to Claussen et al. (hereinafter "Claussen") or U.S. Patent No. 6,828,259 issued to Fisher et al. (hereinafter "Fisher") or U.S. Patent No. 5,854,503 issued to Hsueh et al. (hereinafter "Hsueh"). The Examiner objected to claims 2-8, 11, 12, 18, 20 and 21 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

As highlighted above, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 9, 13, 14, 16, 19 and 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly unpatentable over Park. Applicants respectfully submit that the affidavits attached hereto remove Park as a reference at least with regard to independent claim 1, from which claims 9, 13, 14, 16, 19 and 22-24 depend. Consequently, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

As also highlighted above, the Examiner rejected claims 15 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Park and claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Park in view of Claussen, Fisher or Hsueh. Since, as stated above, Park has been removed as a reference at least with regard to independent claim 1, from which claims 10, 15 and 17 ultimately depend, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

The Examiner objected to claims 2-8, 11, 12, 18, 20 and 21 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but stated that said claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Respectfully, except for the above-noted amendment to claim 18, Applicants do not wish to make any further amendments to these claims at this time.

Applicants note that since no objections and/or rejections with regard to claim 27 have been presented, it is presumed that independent claim 27 is allowable.

All of the pending claims, i.e., claims 1-24, 27 and 28, are in condition for allowance and such favorable action is earnestly solicited.

If any outstanding issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

The Examiner's attention to this matter is appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Chang  
Attorney for Applicant(s)  
Reg. No. 46,611  
Ryan, Mason & Lewis, LLP  
1300 Post Road, Suite 205  
Fairfield, CT 06824  
(203) 255-6560

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